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The Royal Coat of Arms of Great Britain

CONTEMPORARY EMBROIDERY

as exhibited at the Royal College of Art in collaboration with
the Royal College of Art and the Royal College of Art





Foreword

The Arts Council has welcomed the invitation of Needlework Development Scheme to organise with their assistance and co-operation an exhibition of contemporary embroidery on the lines of the much larger exhibition which was shown at the Tea Centre, Lower Regent Street, London, in January 1954.

This exhibition is designed to appeal to all those who are interested in needlework whether they are experienced designers, housewives planning embroidery for the enrichment of their homes, teachers, students or schoolgirls. All the embroideries are British in origin and have been created recently. Emphasis has been laid upon design which is contemporary in spirit although it will often be seen to be firmly rooted in, and developed from, traditional motifs, techniques and stitches. Some very simple embroideries for everyday use, made from inexpensive fabrics, are included as well as richly worked examples for decorative purposes and for special occasions.

Particular stress is laid upon the way in which the basic weave of a fabric, the texture of a particular thread or the characteristic appearance of a stitch can be the main factors when planning a design. Other exhibits show the way in which bird and animal shapes have inspired the artist.

Acknowledgment must be made to Nicholson Brothers, 29, Buckingham St., London, W.C.2 for designing the exhibition.



DESIGNING WITH FABRICS

These exhibits are grouped to show the way in which the design may be suggested by the basic pattern of the fabric from which it is created. Some of the objects are decorated with simple machine stitching.

- 1 Samplers showing experiments with fabrics
- 2 Black and white gingham apron. F. Jarman.
- 3 Cushion made from mattress ticking. Doreen Sisson.
- 4 Pincushion
- 5 Pincushion
- 6 Pincushion. Avril Colby
- 7 Sampler
- 8 Sampler

DESIGNING WITH TEXTURES

The embroideries in this case have been selected to show the way in which the texture of a fabric can influence choice of design and stitch.

- 9 Sampler worked upon different fabrics
- 10 Set of four mats worked in a variety of white threads upon sage green cotton. Winsome F. Douglass
- 11 Three kettle holders made from felt. Doreen Sisson.

- 12 Matching pincushion and needlebook in Cross Stitch. H. Rhodes
- 13 Mat embroidered with "Blackwork" fillings on linen. Helen Smith
- 14 Mat with pulled fabric decoration worked in blue

DESIGNING WITH ANIMAL AND BIRD SHAPES

- 15 Tiger. Cut paper design and appliqué panel designed by Margaret Kaye embroidered by Moira Somerville
- 16 Cockerels. Cut paper design and appliqué panel designed by Margaret Kaye embroidered by Moira Somerville
- 17 Bird. Cut paper design and appliqué panel designed by Margaret Kaye embroidered by Moira Somerville
- 18 Cushion worked in a variety of white threads upon red flannel. Designed by a 15 year-old girl and embroidered by Winsome F. Douglass
- 19 Adaptation of a design worked upon the red cushion
- 20 Panel worked mainly in plastic thread on woven horse hair. G. Scott
- 21 Beret, scarf and mitts for a child. Applied shapes on fine woollen fabric. Jeanne Mount
- 22 "Henry's Book". An embroidered book for a child. Jeanne Mount
- 23 "Ann's Book". An embroidered book of animals for a child. Jeanne Mount
- 24 Kneeling cushion for a child - "The Creation". Animal motifs applied to fine woollen fabric on the front and "Adam and Eve" motif on the back. Joan Nicholson

DESIGNING FOR THE TABLE

- 25 Setting for a supper table. Green place mats, red centre mat and matching napkins and napkin rings
- 26 "Breakfast in bed" set. Tea cosy, traycloth and napkin. Winsome F. Douglass
- 27 Tea cosy and traycloth in green and white cotton fabric. Designed by Winsome F. Douglass, worked by H. Korsar-Leemet
- 28 Tea cosy. Navy blue linen with machine stitched decoration
- 29 Blue tea cosy with applied bands of bias binding. Eva Wray
- 30 Green mat worked in Tambour stitch. Lilian Willey
- 31 Grey mat with interlaced decoration

DECORATIVE BOXES

- 32 Jewel box embroidered in white on grey flannel and lined with striped poplin. The small box is intended for pearls
- 33 Red felt trinket box with window. Winsome F. Douglass
- 34 Pink silk trinket box designed by Winsome F. Douglass, embroidered by Margaret Pollok
- 35 Mauve box with Tudor Rose motif. Winsome F. Douglass
- 36 Sewing case. Jean Sugden
- 37 Jewel box with decoration in "Blackwork". M. Hyde
- 38 Small yellow box. Margaret Dove

- 39 Fitted bag with drawstring top and stiffened base. Eva Wray
- 40 Rush work-basket with an embroidered needle-book, scissors holder and pincushion

**DECORATIVE TOYS – designed and made
by Winsome F. Douglass**

- 41 Bee
- 42 Dragon fly
- 43 Coach and horse
- 44 Black and white cockerel
- 45 Three birds on stand
- 46 Three suggestions for designing a bird's head
- 47 Rocking horse
- 48 Black horse
- 49 White horse
- 50 Grey cotton horse
- 51 Black and white felt horse
- 52 Yellow linen horse
- 53 A family of dolls
- 54 A family of birds

**ECCLESIASTICAL EMBROIDERIES
– designed and made by Beryl Dean**

- 55 Burse
- 56 Chalice Veil
- 57 Corporal
- 58 Pall
- 59 Two Crosses worked upon linen
- 60 Nursery hanging "The King". Winsome F.
Douglass

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